

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on November 12, 2008. No fee is due in connection with this Amendment. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1818. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. 112857-389 on the account statement.

Claims 47-55, 58-60 and 78-92 are pending in this application. Claims 1-46 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 56-57 and 61-77 were withdrawn from consideration. In the Office Action, Claims 47-51, 58-59, 78-81, 83-84, 88-89 and 91-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. Claims 52-55, 60, 82, 85-87 and 90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. In response, Claims 47, 51, 53-55, 58-60, 78, 82, 87-89 and 91-92 have been amended, and Claims 52 and 79 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The amendments do not add new matter. At least in view of the amendments and/or for the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections should be withdrawn.

Applicants note that Claims 51, 53-55, 59-60, 87-89 and 91-92 have been amended solely for clarification purposes to be consistent with currently amended independent Claims 47, 58 and 78. These amendments do not add new matter. The amendments are supported in the Specification at, for example, page 2, paragraph 26; page 3, paragraphs 30 and 33-34; page 4, paragraph 54; pages 6-7, paragraph 98; page 7, paragraph 99; page 8, paragraphs 104-105; page 9, paragraphs 112-113; page 12, paragraph 139; page 17, paragraphs 198 and 206; Figs. 2-5.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). The Patent Office asserts that the "heat sink portion" and "predetermined shape" features of Claim 82 are not shown in the drawings and, thus, the drawings must either be corrected to show such features, or the claims must be amended to cancel such features. See, Office Action, page 2, lines 17-19. In response, Applicants have amended Claim 82 to replace the term "heat sink portion" with "radiating fin" and to remove the term "predetermined shape." These amendments do not add new matter. The amendments are supported in the Specification at, for example, page 12, paragraph 137, lines 1-12; page 13, paragraph 151, lines 5-12; page 14, paragraph 160, lines 1-10; paragraph 168, lines 6-8; paragraph 169, lines 14-17; page 15, paragraph 175, lines 1-6; page 16, paragraphs 181-182; page 17, paragraph 195, lines 1-8; Figs. 8-9, 13 and 14B.

Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments render moot the Patent Office's objections to the drawings.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 47-51, 58-59, 78-81, 83-84, 88-89 and 91-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication JP 02-168565 to Sakakibara et al. ("*Sakakibara*"). In response, Applicants have amended independent Claims 47, 58 and 78. At least in view of the amendments and/or for the reasons set forth below, Applicants, respectfully submit that *Sakakibara* fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of independent Claims 47, 58 and 78 and Claims 48-51, 59, 79-81, 83-84, 88-89 and 91-92 that depend therefrom.

Currently amended independent Claim 47 recites, in part, a water disposal system for disposing water generated during power generation by a power generator, comprising: a water-absorbing member extending from the power generator, for recovering and moving the water by utilizing capillary phenomenon; and a water-retaining member for temporarily accumulating the water, wherein the water-absorbing member is provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the surface.

Currently amended independent Claim 58 recites, in part, a power generation apparatus comprising: a water-absorbing member extending from the power generator such that the water can be recovered and moved by utilizing capillary phenomenon, wherein the water-absorbing member is provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the surface. Similarly, currently amended independent Claim 78 recites, in part, a power generation apparatus comprising: a water-absorbing member for absorbing water generated during power generation by the power generator, provided at least on a midway portion of the oxidizer supply groove, wherein the water-absorbing member is provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the surface. These Amendments do not add new matter. The Amendments are supported in the Specification at, for example, page 3, paragraph 29; page 7, paragraph 102; page 8, paragraphs 104-105; Figs. 2-5. By providing the water-absorbing member on a surface of an electronic device, the water recovered by the water-absorbing member may be more easily or quickly evaporated due to the large surface area of the electronic device. See, Specification,

page 8, paragraph 105, lines 32-38. Furthermore, the water can be removed from the electronic device without providing another device for discharging the water. See, Specification, page 8, paragraph 105, lines 38-41. In contrast, *Sakakibara* fails to disclose every element of the present claims.

For example, *Sakakibara* fails to disclose or suggest a water-absorbing member provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the surface as recited, in part, by independent Claims 47, 58 and 78. The Patent Office admits that *Sakakibara* fails to teach that its water-absorbing member is provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended therefrom and instead relies on *Strecker* for the disclosure of the claimed element. See, Office Action, page 7, lines 12-14.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 47-51, 58-59, 78-81, 83-84, 88-89 and 91-92 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) to *Sakakibara* be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 52-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sakakibara* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,447,945 to Strecker et al. ("*Strecker*"). In response, Applicants have canceled Claim 52 and incorporated the canceled claim elements into independent Claims 47, 58 and 78. Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of Claim 52 renders moot the obviousness rejection with respect to that claim. Furthermore, even if combinable, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of independent Claims 47, 58 and 78 and Claims 48-51, 53, 58-59, 78-81, 83-84, 88-89 and 91-92 that depend therefrom.

For example, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a water-absorbing member provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the surface as required, in part, by independent Claims 47, 58 and 78. The Patent Office admits that *Sakakibara* fails to teach that a water-absorbing member provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended therefrom and instead relies on *Strecker* for the claimed element. See, Office Action, page 7, lines 12-14. However, *Strecker* merely discloses a wick disposed in a porous tube that is provided along the two side edges of a laptop computer lid with openings in the side edges to expose the wick to the outside air. See, *Strecker*, column 5, lines 16-31; column 6, lines 4-47; Figs. 3-4 and 8-9. Nowhere does *Strecker* disclose or suggest that the water-absorbing member is extended from

the surface of the electronic device, nor does the Patent Office cite support for such claimed element. In fact, the wick arrangement is contained entirely within the surface of the laptop computer. See, *Strecker*, Figs. 3 and 8. As such, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a water-absorbing member provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the surface in accordance with the present claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 52-53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to *Sakakibara* and *Strecker* be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claim 54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sakakibara* in view of *Strecker* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,613,467 to Chizawa et al. ("*Chizawa*"). Applicants respectfully submit that, even if combinable, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claim 54.

As discussed previously, *Sakakibara* and *Strecker* fail to disclose or suggest a water-absorbing member provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the surface as required, in part, by independent Claim 47 from which Claim 54 depends. The Patent Office relies on *Chizawa* merely as support for providing the water-retaining member between the water-absorbing member and the electronic device. See, Office Action, page 8, lines 13-21. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that, even if properly combinable, *Chizawa* fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Sakakibara* and *Strecker* with respect to Claim 54.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 54 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to *Sakakibara*, *Strecker* and *Chizawa* be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 55, 60 and 90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sakakibara* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,350,463 to Imahashi et al. ("*Imahashi*"). Applicants respectfully submit that, even if combinable, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claims 55, 60 and 90.

As discussed previously, *Sakakibara* fails to disclose or suggest a water-absorbing member provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the surface as required, in part, by independent Claims 47, 58 and 78 from which Claims 55, 60 and 90 depend. The Patent Office relies on *Imahashi* merely as support for: (1) providing the water-absorbing layer between a diffusion layer and the current collector; and (2) using hydrogen as the fuel gas. See, Office Action, page 9, lines 9-16 and 19-

24. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that, even if properly combinable, *Imahashi* fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Sakakibara* with respect to Claims 55, 60 and 90.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 55, 60 and 90 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to *Sakakibara* and *Imahashi* be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claim 82 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sakakibara* in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0152821 to Lisi ("*Lisi*"). Applicants respectfully submit that, even if combinable, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claim 82.

As discussed previously, *Sakakibara* fails to disclose or suggest a water-absorbing member provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the surface as required, in part, by independent Claim 78 from which Claim 82 depends. The Patent Office relies on *Lisi* merely as support for: (1) including a heat sink portion in the separator; and (2) forming the water-absorbing member in a predetermined shape extending from the heat sink portion. See, Office Action, page 10, lines 4-23. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that, even if properly combinable, *Lisi* fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Sakakibara* with respect to Claim 82.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 82 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to *Sakakibara* and *Lisi* be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 85-86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sakakibara* in view of *Chizawa*. Applicants respectfully submit that, even if combinable, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claims 85-86.

As discussed previously, *Sakakibara* fails to disclose or suggest a water-absorbing member provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the surface as required, in part, by independent Claim 78 from which Claims 85-86 depend. The Patent Office relies on *Chizawa* merely as support for a water-absorbing member with a three-layered structure. See, Office Action, page 11, lines 6-18. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that, even if properly combinable, *Chizawa* fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Sakakibara* with respect to Claims 85-86.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 85-86 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to *Sakakibara* and *Chizawa* be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claim 87 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sakakibara* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,660,419 to Nishida et al. ("*Nishida*"). Applicants respectfully submit that, even if combinable, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claim 87.

As discussed previously, *Sakakibara* fails to disclose or suggest a water-absorbing member provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the surface as required, in part, by independent Claim 78 from which Claim 87 depends. The Patent Office relies on *Nishida* merely as support for roughening the surface of the oxidizer supply groove. See, Office Action, page 12, lines 1-7. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that, even if properly combinable, *Nishida* fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Sakakibara* with respect to Claim 87.

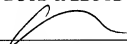
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 87 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to *Sakakibara* and *Nishida* be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP

BY


Thomas C. Basso
Reg. No. 46,541
Customer No. 29175

Date: February 11, 2009